DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Geographic News Bulletin

This bulletin is issued weekly by the Department of the Interior. The information in it is obtained from the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, Washington, D. C.

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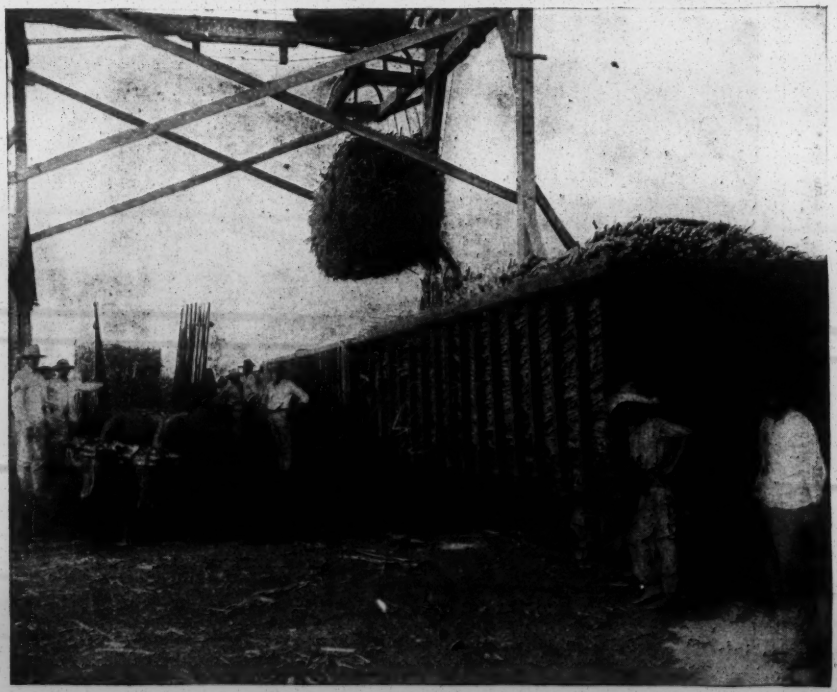

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CUBA'S GOLD IN THE ROUGH—TRANSFERRING CANE FROM OX-CARTS INTO RAILROAD CARS ON A CUBAN SUGAR PLANTATION

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Rapallo: Peaceful Haven of Stormy Fiume's Arbiters

FIGHTING and bloodshed at Fiume, held for many months by the poet-adventurer, Gabriele d'Annunzio, have been in striking contrast to the quiet and peace of Rapallo, in the neighborhood of which was signed the Rapallo Agreement, so frequently mentioned in the newspapers. It was to enforce this agreement, which provided for the formation of a free State of Fiume, that the Italian regulars stormed Fiume.

The quaint little town of Rapallo lies close to the mid-point of the narrow mountain-rimmed shore of the northwest coast of Italy, just south of France, which constitutes the world-famed Italian Riviera. The semi-circle of the Riviera lies open to the sunny south. To the east, north and west rise the sheltering heights of the Apennines and the Ligurian Alps. So wonderful are the climate and the scenery of these rough, sun-bathed mountain slopes and bits of beach, protected from northern winds and washed by the warm waters of the Mediterranean, that they have come to be looked upon as forming the most pleasant winter resort in Europe.

Pearl of the Eastern Riviera

The western arm of the Italian Riviera's semi-circle—"the Riviera of the setting sun"—adjoins France and is best known and most frequently visited. The eastern arm—"the Riviera of the rising sun"—has bolder and more picturesque scenery; the quaintness of its towns and villages is less affected by modern buildings. In this latter section of Italy's wonderland lies Rapallo, "pearl of the Eastern Riviera."

Rapallo lies on the Bay of Rapallo, formed by the greatest of the multitude of headlands that jut into the Mediterranean along this serrated coast. The Monte di Portofino, which forms the summit of the headland, rises abruptly from the sea to a height of 2,000 feet and affords probably the best vantage point in the Riviera for a comprehensive view of this magic region of mountains and water.

View of Entire Riviera

From Rapallo a drive and short walk take one to the summit. Not far to the west lies the great city of Genoa, but with many of its details hidden by intervening hills. Closer by are bays dotted with the white sails of tiny coasting craft. Along the coast, headland follows headland until they seem to dissolve in a lazy haze more than 50 miles away toward the French frontier.

In the opposite direction stretches the Eastern Riviera, a country of more rugged headlands and mountains. Here and there picturesque villages top the hills, cling to their sides, or nestle in the crook of some small bay. Forty miles away the eye loses sight of land with the dim outline of Monte Muzzerone which marks the southeastern limit of the Riviera.

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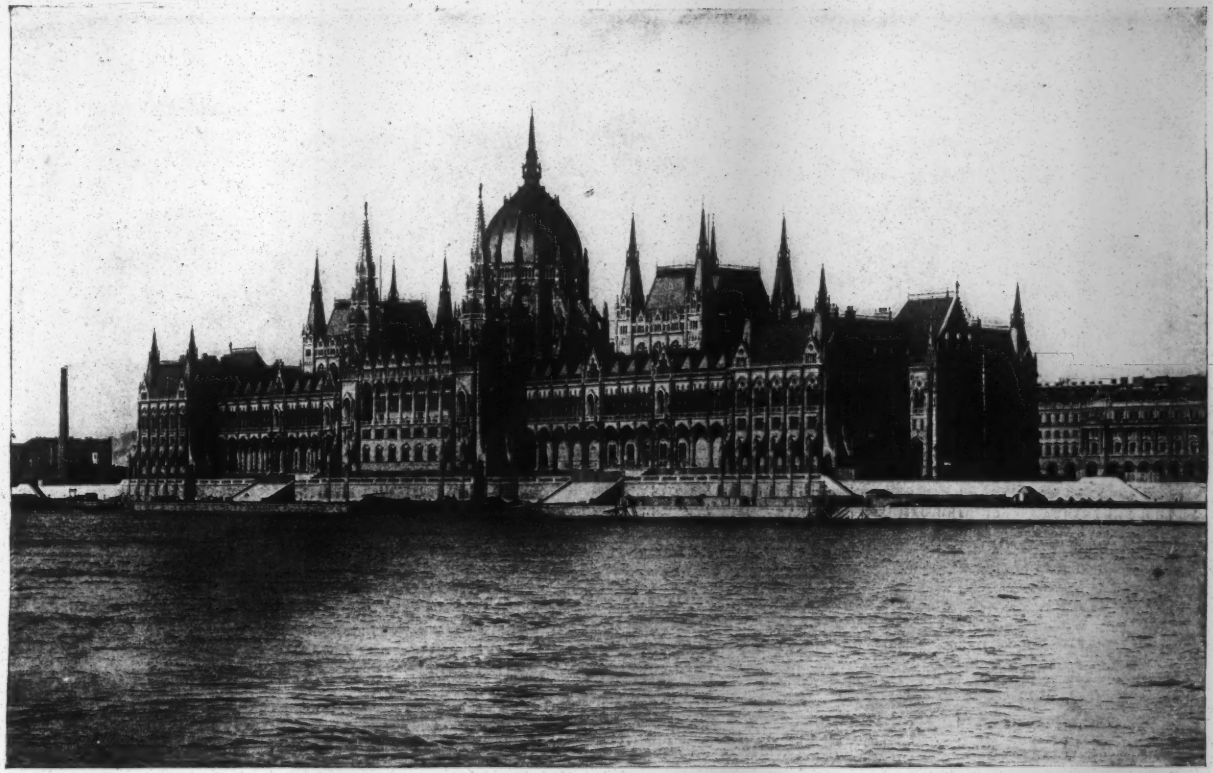

THE HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENT AT BUDAPEST

Before the war the subjects of hygiene, food adulteration, sanitation, the welfare of the child, and the proper treatment of the criminal were taken in hand by Hungarian lawmakers in a manner which sheds more luster upon the name of Magyar than do all the victories of the Arpad line. In the science of comparative sociology he gave law to the world. No article of food, from milk to meat, could be exposed for public sale in Budapest unexamined, unsealed, and unstamped.

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Cuba's Ups and Downs of Prosperity

TO UNDERSTAND the present economic conditions in Cuba, complicated by the recent presidential election, one must take into account the prosperity wave of a year ago.

William Joseph Showalter, who visited the island at that time, wrote The National Geographic Society as follows:

"Almost every person who visits Cuba on pleasure bent lands in Havana, and comparatively few get more than twenty miles away from that city's central park.

"If New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston and Washington were consolidated, the resulting metropolis would bear about the same relation to the United States that Havana bears to Cuba. The capital city is the home of more people than are embraced in the combined populations of all the other cities and towns of the Republic that have more than 4,000 inhabitants. Its closest rival is Santiago, but that city has only one-tenth as many people.

Foreign Shipping Second Only to New York

"As half the country's urban population is centered in Havana, so also is half of its shipping. The city normally handles a greater foreign tonnage than any other port in the Western Hemisphere except New York.

"Most of Cuba's wealthy families have Havana homes. During the past four years the net profits of the sugar business have probably exceeded the gross returns of any other four-year period in the history of the island.

"The result is that perhaps no other city in the whole world has proportionately as large a wealthy population as Havana.

"Out of these conditions grew a situation where dollars were even cheaper than they were in the United States. Tens of thousands of acres of land were laid out in residence sites, and the Vedado district, the Riverside Drive and the Sheridan Road of Havana, was extended until it reached farther from the Prado than Riverside Drive from New York's City Hall Square or Sheridan Road from Chicago's loop.

What Sugar Did for Real Estate

"There are no advertising signs on these lots. But as one motors along one sees nestling close to the ground inconspicuous little boards, about a foot long, and half a foot wide, bearing the legend in Spanish 'Sold to Mr. So and So.' And Mr. So and So is usually some Cuban who made a fortune out of sugar down in the provinces and came up to the capital for the social season. If not that, he is probably an American who likes to be reasonably near the country clubs. The price of the lots was from one to three dollars a square foot, or from $43,000 to $130,000 per acre.

"If high prices hit those to whom Havana is home, it was, of course, natural

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One of Europe's Most Beautiful Walks

A mile to the south of Rapallo on the shore of the same bay is Santa Margherita, like Rapallo, a town retaining much of the quaintness of the old Riviera, unspoiled by modern influences. The road skirting the bay for several miles from Santa Margherita to the point of the Portofino headland is said to afford one of the most beautiful and charming walks in Europe. On one side are dark rocks washed by the glittering, blue sea; on the other rise pine-covered slopes on which are situated many beautiful villas.

The entire region about Rapallo and Santa Margherita is noted for the large number of these show places. In one of them, the stately Villa Spinola, the agreement between Italy and Jugo-Slavia was signed. Though this villa is nearer Santa Margherita, it is just over the line of the Commune of Rapallo. Because of this detail of communal boundaries the important agreement, which fixed the status of Fiume and the Dalmatian coast and seems to have solved one of the most stubborn of the after-the-war territorial problems, will go down in history, not bearing the name of the nearby Santa Margherita, but bearing that of the more distant Rapallo.

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Guam: Where Fish Are Caught in Strange Fashion

SHOULD the United States ever acquire the much discussed Island of Yap, the Island of Guam would be robbed of its distinction of being our smallest possession. Guam lies east of the Philippines and northeast of Yap.

A writer to the National Geographic Society describes the customs and natural resources of Guam as follows:

"The fruit of a common tree (Barringtonia speciosa) the natives use to stupefy fish.

Fish Stupefied; Then Caught by Hand

"The fruit is pounded into a paste, inclosed in a bag, and kept over night. The time of an especially low tide is selected, and bags of the pounded fruit are taken out on the reef next morning and sunk in certain deep holes in the reef. The fish soon appear on the surface, some of them lifeless, others attempting to swim, or faintly struggling with their ventral side uppermost. The natives scoop them in their hands, sometimes even diving for them.

"In the mangrove swamps when the tide is low hundreds of little fishes with protruding eyes may be seen hopping about in the mud and climbing among the roots of the Rhizophora and Bruguiera. These belong to a group of fishes interesting from the fact that their air bladder has assumed in a measure the function of lungs, enabling the animals to breathe atmospheric air.

Even Children Are Expert Swimmers

"Men, women and children of Guam are expert swimmers, and are as much at ease in the water as on land. As they throw themselves into the sea and come bounding from wave to wave they remind one of dolphins.

"According to the testimony of early writers, their houses were high and neatly made and better constructed than those of any aboriginal race hitherto discovered in the Indies.

"They were a happy, careless people, fond of festivities, dancing, singing, story-telling, and contests of strength and skill, yet sufficiently industrious to cultivate their fields and garden patches, build excellent houses for their families, braid mats of fine texture, and construct canoes which were the admiration of all the early navigators. They were much given to buffoonery, mockery, playing tricks, jesting, mimicry, and ridicule, offering in this respect a striking contrast to the undemonstrative Malayans.

Natives Pleasing in Appearance

"The natives of Guam are, as a rule, of good physique and pleasing appearance. Owing to their mixed blood, their complexion varies from the white of a Caucasian to the brown of a Malay. Most of them have glossy black hair, which is either

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that they should strike the transient even more forcibly. Hotels everywhere are always the advance guard in the price climb, and those in Cuba have been no exception.

High Hotel Rates Cut Tourists' Sojourns

"There is only one hotel in Havana that gives anything like the American standard of service, and its rates during the past season were $25 a day for an outside room with bath, without meals. It purposed to cater only to those to whom prices are no object; but that sort of patronage failed to develop in sufficient volume to maintain a full house.

"The other hotels charged rates of from $6 to $12 for accommodations far from as good as one gets at from $3 to $6 in New York. The result was that many people who came to spend a week or ten days moved up their return dates considerably, and the tourist population changed on the average of every four days.

"The disappointments of the past season promise for the coming season a saner adjustment between rates and service.

Why Sugar Made Cuba So Rich

"According to figures furnished the writer by the Cuban Department of Agriculture, much land produces 22 bags of sugar to the acre. This, at 15 cents a pound, brings a gross return of more than $1,000 an acre.

"These conditions brought about the unprecedented boom in sugar lands. One sugar estate, which was bought some three years ago for $3,000,000, sold last January for $9,500,000. Another, which was valued at about $6,000,000 a few years ago, changed hands at $15,000,000."

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The Geography of the Presidential Election

TO ELECT the President whose inauguration took place this month the heaviest "battle of ballots" ever known was waged. The steady drop, drop, drop of the pieces of paper by which the American citizen registers his voice in the conduct of the government began on November 2, in Eastport, Maine, easternmost community in the United States, and continued until some sixteen hours later when election judges closed their booths in Ozette, Washington, the Presidential suffrage community farthest west.

The battle was not made greater than those of 1912 and 1916 by any increase in the area over which it was fought, for Arizona and New Mexico, casting their ballots for President for the first time in 1912, completed the roster of the States in the United States proper and signalized the extension of the Presidential suffrage to every political unit between the two oceans and the Canadian and Mexican borders except the District of Columbia. The battle was increased in magnitude, however, by the extension of suffrage to women in the many States which did not permit them to vote in previous elections.

The Far-Flung Ballot Box

This greatest of election struggles took place in an area of approximately 3,000,000 square miles, under conditions varying from the frosty weather of the Canadian boundary and possible snow storms of the higher communities of the Rockies, to the burning sunshine of Key West and some of the cities and villages of the southwestern border.

Ballot-boxes—emblems of American sovereignty—were set up in the hearts of great cities, in villages, in wayside school houses; on isolated islands, in pockets of the great woods; far up among rough peaks, and below the level of the sea; in many cases in communities which lie behind great natural barriers that cut them off physically from other settlements. And yet, because of the telephone and telegraph wires that extend into nearly every community, and wireless communication that supplements them, most American citizens learned the results from the far-flung battle line at their breakfast tables next morning. Indeed impatient followers of the returns knew the results before midnight, reading reports flashed on screens before newspaper offices in countless cities and towns.

Had to Wait Weeks to Know Who Won

It was far different, paradoxical as it may seem at first sight, during the early Presidential elections in which popular voting figured, in spite of the fact that practically all voters were east of the Mississippi River and most of them in the States along the Atlantic seaboard. Lacking electrical means of communication and railroads, and having but poor highways and vehicles, the country was often in ignorance of the candidate elected for weeks after the election.

The contrast cannot be carried back to elections when the United States was confined to its original thirteen members along the narrow strip of coast country,

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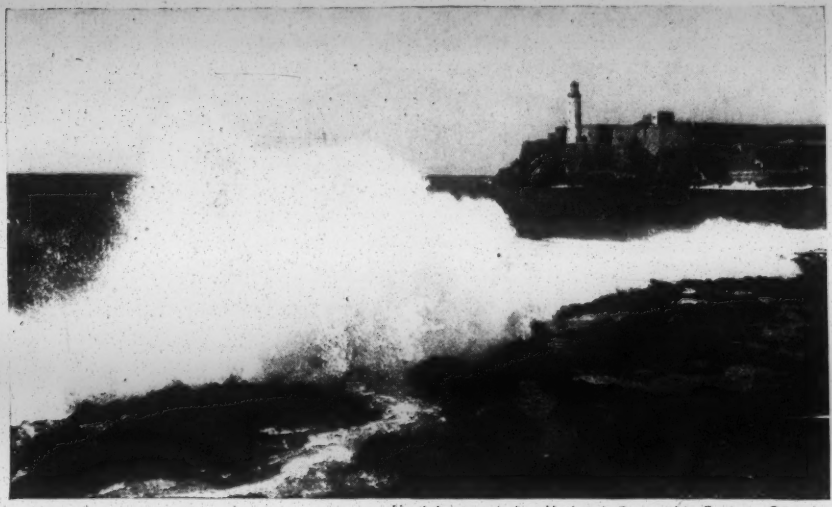
straight or slightly curly. It is worn short by the men and long by the women, either braided, coiled, or dressed after the styles prevailing in Manila.

"The people are essentially agricultural. There are few masters and few servants on the island. As a rule the farms are not too extensive to be cultivated by the family, all the members, even the little children, lending a hand."



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A VIEW OF MORRO CASTLE AND THE ENTRANCE TO THE HARBOR OF HAVANA FROM THE BASE OF THE SEA-WALL ON THE CITY SIDE OF THE HARBOR

The headland on which the castle stands has looked down on much stirring history. It did not see Columbus, but it saw his immediate successors. It saw a great port of Spain spring up; and the riches of the Western world passed before it. It saw the Maine blown up, and Spain swept from its last hold in America. The port over which it keeps watch handles, year in and year out, more foreign shipping than any other port in the Western Hemisphere, except New York.

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Budapest: Capital of the Magyars

BUDAPEST, once famed for its gayety and now suffering the pangs of famine, again commands attention as the capital where effort is being made to restore a monarchical form of government in Hungary.

C. Townley-Fullam, in a communication to the National Geographic Society, vividly describes this city of the Magyars in the care-free days before the war. He writes:

"It is 10 o'clock in Budapest. Theaters and opera, music halls and cafés, restaurants, and casinos are packed, for the serious business of the day has begun. To find an empty place one must go into the brilliantly lighted streets or go home. From now until long after dawn has broken over Buda fortress, on the other side, the easy-going, improvident Magyar of the city is immersed in affairs which will not wait.

"Never Goes to Bed and Gets Up at Seven A. M."

"He who never goes to bed and gets up at seven in the morning; never has money and spends it royally; never puts off till tomorrow what he hopes some one may be induced to do for him next week; whose ideas of time are rather Oriental than Central European; who makes haste, in other matters, with caution and forebodings; is guilty of much, but never of neglecting his urgent private affairs.

"Budapest is, after all, what Nature and the Magyar have made her. But to comprehend her, to come into intimate touch with the wonder of things Magyar, it is not enough to understand the architect and all for which he stands. The city of the Magyars has her own secret; she may be experienced, but not described.

"Never was a people more addicted to philosophy than this people—a philosophy frankly Celtic. Never was a people more prone to appeal to the sedative properties of half-bricks. It would be difficult to find a race more fitted to govern, and impossible to name one less able.

Some of the Commandments He Keeps

"The true Magyar would scorn to bear false witness against his neighbor; he does not steal; he cannot curse; nor does he work on the seventh day, nor indeed on any other. The other commandments take their chance.

"These things may not be quite convincing. But when we approach the question of tribute, the rendering unto Cæsar of things which are not Cæsar's, the pure Oriental emerges from his purely accidental Western environment and is again in the tents of Shem.

The Land of the Open Palm

"Take a typical, concrete, every-day instance. Go into a café and order a glass of milk, the nominal value of which may be 15 kreuzers. Perhaps the waiter will bring it, perhaps he will forget.

for in those days the voter and the campaign manager had not come into their own. The choosing of a president was a partyless, campaignless and—so far as most of the "men in the street" were concerned—a voteless affair. Legislatures saved voters from the bother of casting ballots by appointing electors and the latter chose a President.

Tennessee Planted Seed of Nominating Conventions

Westerners might assert that the extension of the vote to their States popularized the government. At any rate, as the course of statehood has taken its way westward voters have come more and more into closer management of their government, and their various activities have left geographical milestones along the road.

Tennessee originated the first movement toward the popular choice of a standard bearer who should stand before the country as a candidate. This first impulse which brought about nominating conventions, competing parties and campaigns much as we know them today started at a mass meeting of citizens at the little town of Marysville in 1823. Speechmaking trips were first made in the campaign of 1840, and what was considered the big "swing around the circle" of Stephen Douglas in 1860 covered only a part of the country east of the Mississippi. At that, the trip was much more of an undertaking than the transcontinental campaigning tours of today.

The expanding geography of the United States has played its part in the elections of Presidents in more ways than one. Missouri and its Compromise left its impress early. The Mexican war and the winning of Texas elected Zachary Taylor. South Carolina, Florida, Louisiana and Oregon were the scattered pawns in the greatest and most dangerous political game that has ever been played in America—the Hayes-Tilden contest of 1876 which gave the Presidency to the former.

Nearly every succeeding Presidential campaign since the establishment of the Union has seen votes counted from new States. The first six Presidents were elected by votes entirely from east of the Mississippi. With the admission of Louisiana in 1812, voters living west of the great river that formed the early western boundary of the country cast their first votes for President. Growth of the country during the next few years took place in the Great Lakes region, and it was not until 1821 when Missouri was admitted that a State lying entirely to the west of the Mississippi joined in choosing a Chief Executive.

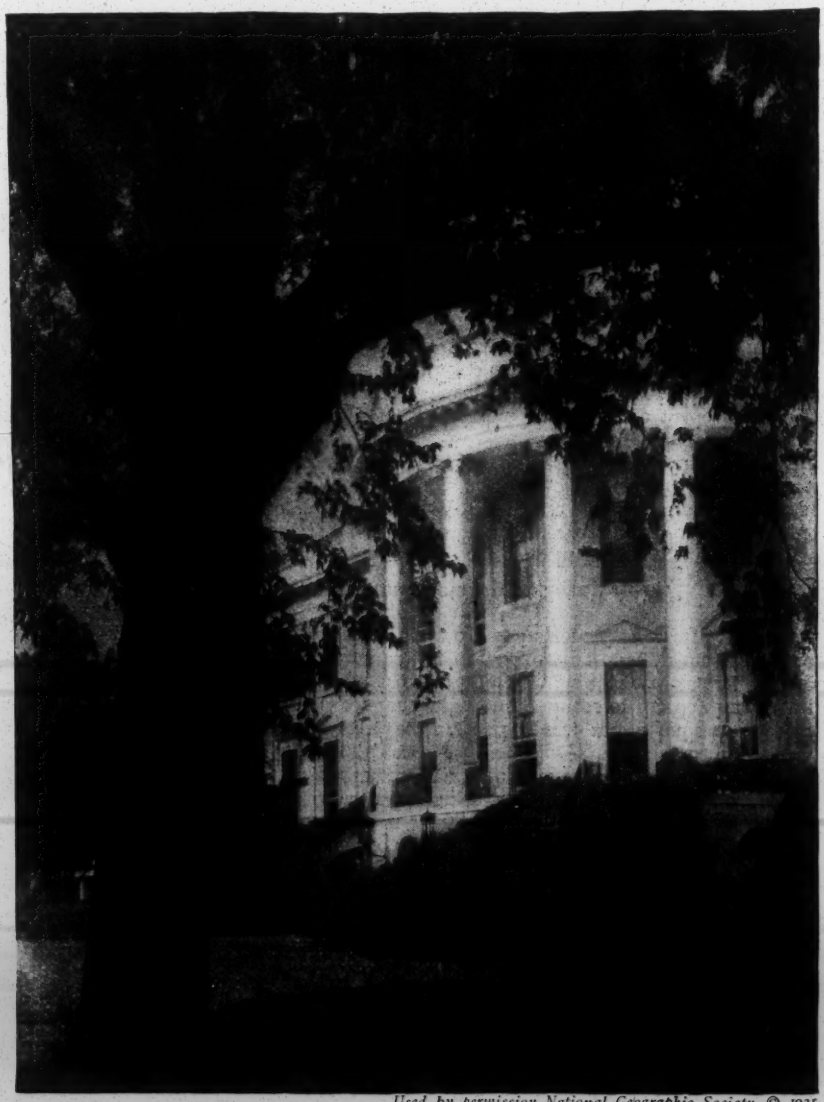
When Suffrage Linked Ocean to Ocean

The annexation of Texas in 1845 carried the territory of the United States in which participation could be had in Presidential elections much farther west than it had ever extended before, and in the election of 1848 voters living as far west as the 106th meridian had the right to cast ballots. Texas was the westernmost State for only a brief period. In 1850 California was admitted to statehood, the first State separated by territories from the great group of contiguous States. Presidential suffrage had at last reached the Pacific coast. Nine years later Oregon, touching California on the north, was annexed. In 1864 Nevada was admitted and, with the other two, long constituted an island of statehood in the far west.

Kansas in 1864, Nebraska in 1868, and Colorado in 1876 carried the main body of voting States closer to the little western group, but it was not until 1890, when the citizens of Wyoming, Idaho, the Dakotas, and Montana cast their first presidential ballots, that the gap was bridged.

Although modern facilities, coupled with the usual tendency of most States to vote decisively for one party or another, make the results of a Presidential election apparent almost before the last polling places are closed, returns sometimes come in from various parts of the country in such a way that some rather close elections have kept the country guessing for days.

"For the sake of the argument he brings it. The waiter, also the boy who loads your table with yesterday's papers, also the man who swoops upon your hat, also the Gipsy who pours out his soul in alleged music for his own satisfaction—and he is easily satisfied—also the disguised Marquis who happens to wander in your direction, all must be appeased. Under 60 kreuzers you cannot well escape."



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THE END OF THE BALLOT-STREWN TRAIL—THE WHITE HOUSE, SOUTH FRONT

In the original plans of Washington the south front was intended to be the main front of the White House; modern conditions have made the north front the main one. From this colonnaded portico one looks out through old trees, over a well-planted garden, past the most beautiful fountain in the city to the Mall, the Washington Monument, the Potomac River, and the hills of Virginia. On the slopes below this portico thousands of brightly dressed children, high and low, rich and poor, have gathered in years past on Easter Monday for the tradition-honored egg-rolling on the White House grounds.